

Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 LAB-01 COME-00 EB-04 NSC-05
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7028
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3335

LIMDIS

PASS LABOR FOR SECY MARSHALL, HOROWITZ AND ILAB

PASS COMMERCE FOR ASST SECY WEIL AND UPTON

IO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES AND PALMER

SIL FOR DALE GOOD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJECT: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S IMPRESSIONS OF AFRICAN LABOR
MINISTERS MEETING

REF: TRIPOLI 558

1. SUMMARY: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD'S CHEF
DE CABINET, BERNARD FORTIN, GAVE US A RUNDOWN ON BLANCHARD'S
IMPRESSIONS OF THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS MEETING (ALMN) WHICH
TOOK PLACE IN TRIPOLI LAST WEEK. BLANCHARD'S STRONGEST
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IMPRESSIONS WERE THAT THE ARABS HAD NOT CARRIED THE
AFRICANS ALONG ON A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT ISSUES AND THAT
THE ALMN HAD FOCUSED ON THE ARTICLE 17 ISSUE RATHER THAN
ON ISRAEL. BLANCHARD BELIEVES THAT THE GB APPROVED
TEXT ON ARTICLE 17 IS NOT UNDERSTOOD BY THE AFRICANS.
WE HAVE POUCHED THE TEXTS OF THE ALMM RESOLUTIONS
(TO PALMER IN IO) AND LISTED THE TITLES IN PARA FIVE

BELOW. THE TEXTS OF THE RESOLUTIONS ON ISRAEL AND ON ARTICLE 17 WILL BE SENT SEPT. ALL THE RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; THEY ARE IN DRAFT FORM BUT ARE BELIEVED TO INCLUDE ALL THE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

2. BLANCHARD'S GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT THE ALMM WAS CONFUSED AND UNFOCUSED (HE LEFT ON APRIL 28 BEFORE THE MEETING ENDED) BUT THAT THE ARABS HAD NOT MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN LINING UP THE AFRICANS ON THEIR SIDE. ON THE ISRAELI ISSUE, THE ALMM RESOLUTION FOCUSED ON REVERSING THE GOVERNING BODY DECISION IN MARCH (TO END THE DG'S FOLLOWUP TO THE 1974 ILC RESOLUTION) AND NOT ON A NEW RESOLUTION OF CONDEMNATION. THE ARABS WERE CONCERNED THAT BLANCHARD MIGHT NOT REPORT THE GOVERNING BODY DECISION TO THE ILC IN JUNE. BLANCHARD AGREED TO SEND A TELEGRAM TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ARAB LABOR ORGANIZATION, AFFIRMING THAT HE WILL REPORT THE DECISION TO THE ILC; THE ALO SEC GEN GAVE BLANCHARD THE IMPRESSION THAT IF BLANCHARD REPORTED THE GB ACTION, THE ARABS WOULD NOT INTRODUCE A NEW RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL. BLANCHARD BELIEVES THE ARABS COULD DOUBLECROSS HIM AND INTRODUCE A NEW RESOLUTION ANYWAY, BUT FINDS IT INTERESTING THAT THE ARABS ARE NOT PUBLICLY PUSHING FOR A NEW RESOLUTION AT THIS TIME.

3. ON OTHER ISSUES TOO, THE AFRICANS DID NOT BLINDLY FOLLOW THE ARABS. FOR INSTANCE, THEY MERELY AGREED TO STUDY THE ARAB PROPOSAL FOR A TRIPARTITE AFRICAN LABOR ORGANIZATION. ON THE STRUCTURE ISSUE, WHERE

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THE ARABS AND AFRICANS PERHAPS HAVE MORE IN COMMON, THE ALMM RESOLUTION AVOIDS A SHOWDOWN AT THE JUNE ILC. (IT CALLS ON ILO MEMBER STATES TO MAINTAIN A DIALOGUE ON STRUCTURE IN ORDER TO REACH A GLOBAL RESOLUTION BY THE 1978 ILC; AND IF A SOLUTION IS NOT POSSIBLE BY THAT TIME, TO MOVE FOR A SPECIAL ILC SESSION ON STRUCTURE).

4. RATHER THAN ISRAEL, BLANCHARD THOUGHT THE FOCUS OF THE ALMM WAS ON ARTICLE 17. HE BELIEVES THE ARAB ARGUMENT THAT THE "U.S. PROPOSAL" TO AMEND ARTICLE 17 IS DESIGNED ONLY TO FRUSTRATE THEIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST ISRAEL WAS PERSUASIVE TO THE AFRICANS. THE AFRICANS DID NOT BUY BLANCHARD'S ARGUMENT THAT THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 PROVIDED DUE PROCESS PROTECTION FOR ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES AND NOT JUST FOR ISRAEL OR CHILE. BLANCHARD BELIEVES THE U.S. AND ITS IMEC ALLIES HAVE TO BE MORE PERSUASIVE IN THE THIRD WORLD WITH THE DUE PROCESS ARGUMENT (FORTIN ADDED THAT THE ILO

SECRETARIAT SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN THIS EFFORT).

IDENTIFICATION OF THE GOVERNING BODY'S PROPOSAL
FOR AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 17 WITH THE U.S. WAS STRONG
THROUGHOUT THE ALMM; PARA THREE OF THE ALMM RESOLUTION WAS
AMENDED TO INCLUDE "U.S. PROPOSAL ON THE" ISSUE OF
ARTICLE 17.

5. THE SHORT TITLES OF THE RESOLUTIONS FOLLOW:

I. RESOLUTION OF CREATION OF AN AFRICAN LABOR
ORGANIZATION.

II. RESOLUTION CALLING FOR OAU/ALO COORDINATION
COMMITTEE.

III. RESOLUTION ON TURIN CENTER
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IV. RESOLUTION ON STRUCTURE

V. RESOLUTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
LABOR STUDIES

VI. THE RESOLUTION ON THE OATUU

VII. THE RESOLUTION POPULATION

VIII. RESOLUTION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE 63RD
SESSION OF THE ILC

IX. RESOLUTION ON THE AMNDMENT TO ARTICLE 17

X. RESOLUTION ON THE FOLLOW OF THE 1974 ILC
RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL.

XI. RESOLUTION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. SORENSON

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